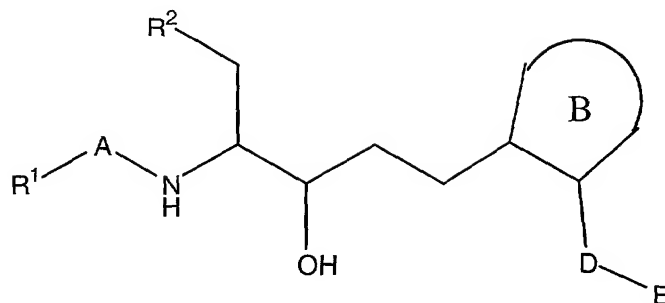
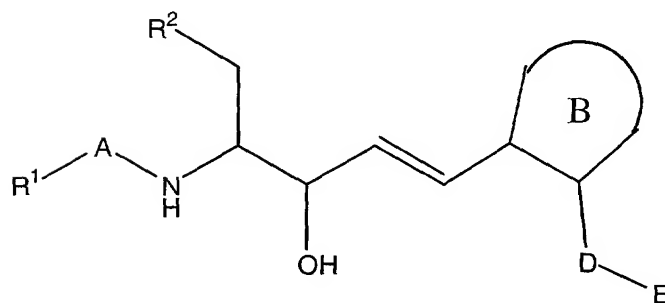


CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula



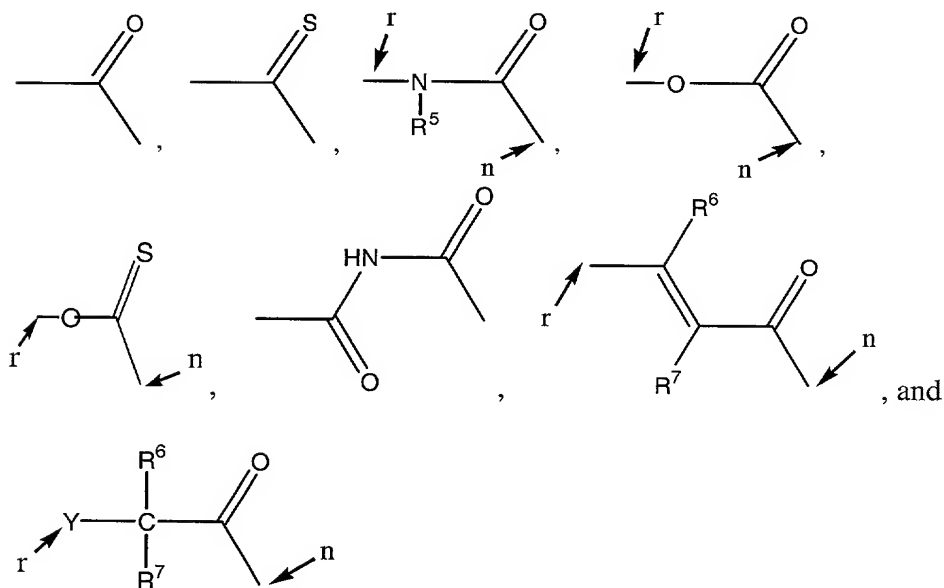
or



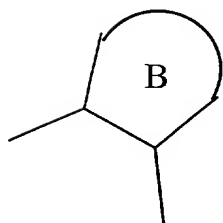
wherein

- R^1 is chosen from the group consisting of C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, substituted alkylaryl, C_3 - C_{10} oxaalkyl, substituted aryl, heterocyclyl, and substituted heterocyclyl;
- R^2 is chosen from the group consisting of C_1 - C_{10} hydrocarbon, substituted aryl and heterocyclyl;

A is chosen from the group consisting of $-\text{SO}_2-$, $-\text{NHSO}_2-$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{NHC(O)}-$



wherein $r \rightarrow$ designates the point of attachment to R^1 and $n \rightarrow$ designates the point of attachment to N;



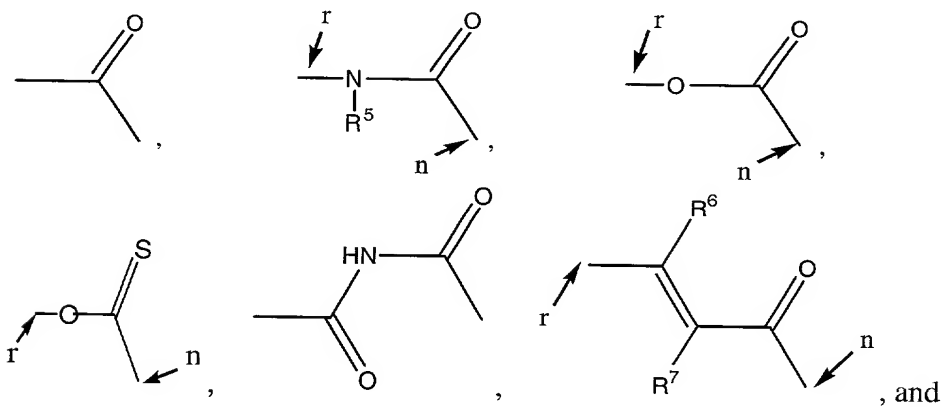
is monocyclic, bicyclic or tricyclic aryl or heteroaryl containing

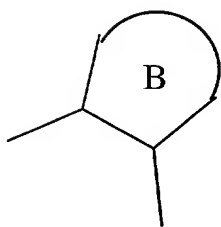
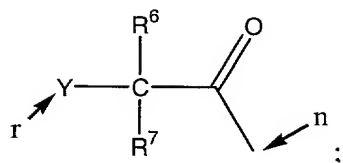
from 0 to 3 substituents chosen from lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, hydroxy, mercapto, cyano, carboxy, lower alkoxycarbonyl, (lower alkoxycarbonyl)lower alkoxy, lower alkylaminocarbonyl, amino, lower alkylamino, di(lower alkyl)amino, nitro, halo and haloalkyl;

- R^5 is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl and substituted aryl;
- R^6 and R^7 are chosen independently from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen and lower alkyl;
- D is $-C(O)-$ or $-NHC(O)-$;
- E is chosen from the group consisting of C_5-C_8 alkyl, heterocyclyl, substituted heterocyclyl and $NR^{10}R^{11}$;
- R^{10} is hydrogen or lower alkyl;
- R^{11} is chosen from C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon, substituted aryl and substituted alkyl; and
- Y is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-NH-$ or a direct bond, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein

- R^1 is chosen from the group consisting of C_1-C_{20} alkyl, substituted C_1-C_{20} alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, C_3-C_{10} oxaalkyl, substituted aryl, heterocyclyl, and substituted heterocyclyl;
- R^2 is C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon;
- A is chosen from the group consisting of $-SO_2-$,





is monocyclic or bicyclic aryl or containing

from 0 to 3 substituents chosen from lower alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, (lower alkoxy carbonyl) lower alkoxy, nitro and halo;

R^5 is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aryl and substituted aryl;

R^6 and R^7 are chosen independently from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen and lower alkyl;

D is $-C(O)-$ or $-NHC(O)-$;

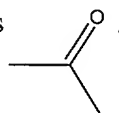
E is chosen from the group consisting of C_5-C_8 alkyl, heterocyclyl, substituted heterocyclyl and $NR^{10}R^{11}$;

R^{10} is hydrogen;

R^{11} is chosen from C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon and substituted alkyl; and

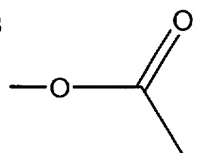
Y is $-O-$, $-S-$, $-NH-$ or a direct bond.

3. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is

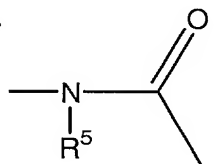


4. A compound according to claim 3 wherein R^1 is chosen from the group consisting of phenyl; phenyl substituted with halo, methoxy, hydroxymethyl, allyl, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, anilino, benzoyl, dimethylamino, amino, nitro, cyano, and C_1 - C_6 alkyl; hydroxy C_1 - C_6 alkyl; naphthyl and nitrogenous heterocyclyl, and substituted nitrogenous heterocyclyl.

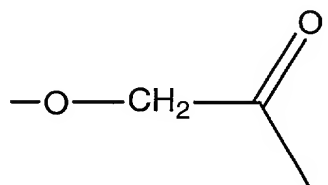
5. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is



6. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is



7. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is

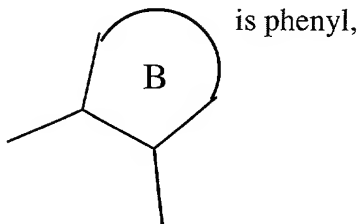


8. A compound according to claim 7 wherein R^1 is chosen from the group consisting of C_1 - C_8 alkyl; phenyl; phenyl substituted with halo, methoxy, hydroxymethyl, allyl, carboxy, trifluoromethyl, anilino, benzoyl, dimethylamino, amino, nitro, cyano, and C_1 - C_6 alkyl; hydroxy C_1 - C_6 alkyl; naphthyl; nitrogenous heterocyclyl; and substituted nitrogenous heterocyclyl.

9. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is $-SO_2-$.

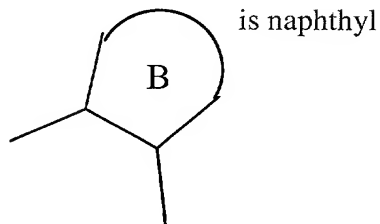
10. A compound according to claim 9 wherein R^1 is chosen from the group consisting of C_1 - C_8 alkyl; phenyl; substituted phenyl; naphthyl; heteroaryl; and substituted heteroaryl.

11. A compound according to claim 1 wherein

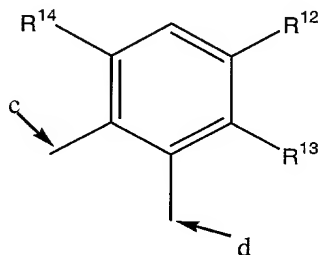


substituted phenyl or naphthyl.

12. A compound according to claim 11 wherein



or



R^{12} is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, nitro and [(lower alkoxy)carbonyl]loweralkoxy;

R^{13} is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy and lower alkoxy;

R^{14} is chosen from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy and lower alkoxy;

and wherein $c \rightarrow$ and $d \rightarrow$ designate the points of attachment of the carbon chain and D respectively.

13. A compound according to claim 1 wherein D is $-C(O)-$.

14. A compound according to claim 13 wherein:

E is chosen from the group consisting of :

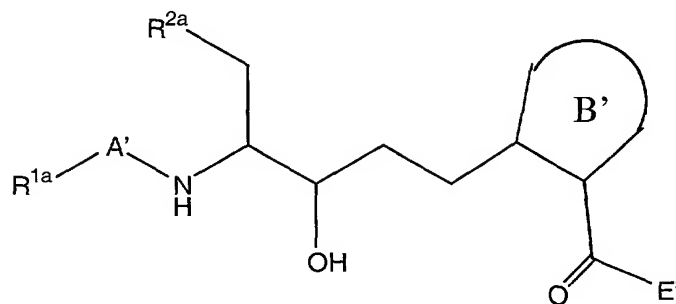
- (i) nitrogenous heterocyclyl connected to D via N;
- (ii) substituted nitrogenous heterocyclyl connected to D via N; and
- (iii) NHR^{11} ; and

R^{11} is chosen from C_4-C_{10} hydrocarbon and 2-hydroxy-1-phenylethyl.

15. A compound according to claim 1 wherein D is $-NHC(O)-$ and E is C_4-C_{10} hydrocarbon.

16. A compound according to claim 1 wherein R^2 is phenyl, ethyl, propyl or butyl.

17. A compound of formula

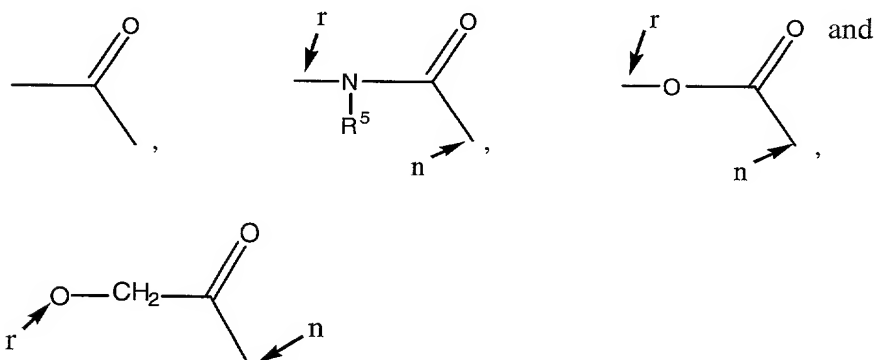


wherein:

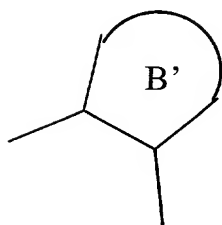
R^{1a} is chosen from the group consisting of C_1-C_{20} alkyl, substituted C_1-C_{20} alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, C_3-C_{10} oxaalkyl, substituted aryl, heterocyclyl, and substituted heterocyclyl;

R^{2a} is chosen from the group consisting of phenyl, ethyl, propyl and butyl;

A' is chosen from the group consisting of $-SO_2-$,



wherein $r \rightarrow$ designates the point of attachment to R^1 and $n \rightarrow$ designates the point of attachment to N;



is monocyclic or bicyclic aryl or containing

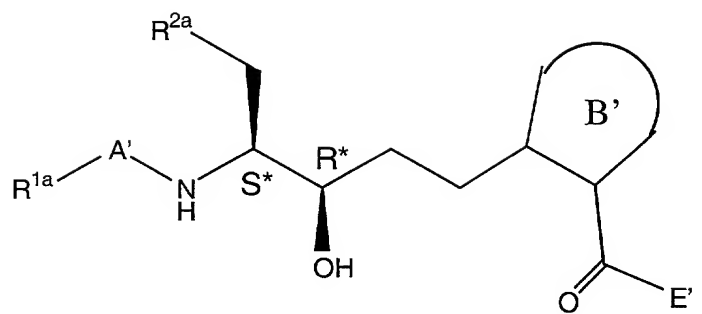
from 0 to 3 substituents chosen from lower alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, (lower alkoxy carbonyl) lower alkoxy, nitro and halo;

E' is chosen from the group consisting of :

- (i) nitrogenous heterocyclyl connected to D via N;
- (ii) substituted nitrogenous heterocyclyl connected to D via N; and
- (iii) NHR^{11} ; and

R^{11} is chosen from C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon and substituted alkyl, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

18. A compound according to claim 17 wherein the carbon marked S^* is of the S configuration and the carbon marked R^* is of the R configuration:



19. A method of treating or preventing a protease-precipitated disease which comprises administering to a mammal suffering from said disease or at risk to said disease a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.
20. A method according to claim 19 wherein said disease is HIV, AIDS or a related condition.
21. A method according to claim 19 wherein said disease is malaria.
22. A method according to claim 19 wherein said disease is chosen from connective tissue disease, muscular dystrophy, breast cancer and Alzheimer's disease.
23. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.
24. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 23 comprising at least one additional antiviral agent.